

HOUSE BILL 3701

By Shaw

AN ACT to name a bridge on State Route 125 in  
Hardeman County in honor of the late Gunnery  
Sergeant Terry J. Elliot, United States Marine  
Corps.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor the memory of those courageous members of the United States Armed Forces who gave their lives in the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, no person is more deserving of this honor than the late Gunnery Sergeant Terry J. Elliot, United States Marine Corps, who died on January 31, 2007, while engaged in combat operations in Albu Hyatt, Iraq; and

WHEREAS, like thousands of others of this nation's sons and daughters, Gunnery Sergeant Elliot did not shrink from serving in combat, believing in the justice of the cause to protect our national security and liberty and to bring freedom to the Iraqi people; and

WHEREAS, Gunnery Sergeant Terry J. Elliott served his country with the greatest distinction in the United States Marine Corps for 14 years and 7 months, from December 1992 until his death on January 31, 2007, and was honored with the following awards: The Purple Heart, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with two Gold Stars, Combat Action Ribbon with Gold Star, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, Good Conduct Medal with three Bronze Stars, National Defense Medal with Bronze Star, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, United Nations Medal, NATO Medal, and Marine Corps Recruiting Ribbon; and

WHEREAS, a native of Hardeman County, Gunnery Sergeant Elliott was educated in the Hardeman County School System and is remembered by his Middleton Elementary School teachers as a strong-willed young man who showed leadership qualities at an early age; and

WHEREAS, Gunnery Sergeant Elliott was a member in good standing at New Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church, having been an active participant in youth activities and functions sponsored by the Church while singing in the Youth Choir and later, the Male Chorus; and

WHEREAS, Gunnery Sergeant Terry J. Elliot served with dignity, dedication, courage, and gallantry, giving his life for his country and for the cause in which he believed, and for that ultimate sacrifice, he deserves proper recognition; as a member of the United States Marine Corps, he proudly continued an essential tradition of American society: the concept of the citizen-soldier; and

WHEREAS, Gunnery Sergeant Elliot 's dedication to excellence in the military and his love of his family, his fellow Marines and his country, exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear, stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, the County Mayor and the County Commission of Hardeman County have petitioned this Body to name a bridge near the community in which he grew up to permanently commemorate the singular patriotism, courage, and commitment to duty of the late Gunnery Sergeant Terry J. Elliot, United States Marine Corps; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly most heartily concurs with this excellent proposal; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the bridge spanning Porters Creek on State Route 125 in Hardeman County, such bridge being the first bridge traveling north from Middleton on State Route 125, is hereby designated the "Gunnery Sgt.

Terry J. Elliot Memorial Bridge" in recognition of the life of valor and death in combat of Gunnery Sergeant Terry J. Elliot, United States Marine Corps.

SECTION 2. The Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the bridge described in Section 1 as the "Gunnery Sgt. Terry J. Elliot Memorial Bridge". The cost of such signage shall be funded in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, § 54-1-133.

SECTION 3. The erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the Commissioner of Transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.